Ideas and Content: Concrete Details

6-TRAIT WRITING

What are concrete details?

- Quotes and examples from the story or text.
- What actually happened in the story or text.
- Also called evidence.

What are concrete details used for?

- Supporting your observations and conclusions
- The cold hard facts you base your arguments on.
- The support structure for your thesis statements!

Why are concrete details important?

- Without evidence you have no basis for your commentary.
- Without the support of evidence you have no argument.

Where can concrete details come from?

- From the text of any book, play, short story, poem or any other work of literature or text.
- From film including television shows, movies, and documentaries.
- It must be relevant to your thesis (argument).

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN CONCRETE DETAILS AND SUMMARIZING.

Summarizing is:

- Retelling the entire story in shortened form.
- No original thoughts from you.
- No opinions from you.
- No new insights from you.
- Kinda boring.

Concrete Details is:

- Using only one or two examples from the story.
- Using relevant concrete details.
- Not retelling the entire story.
- Focusing a very small portion on events from the story.
- The facts allowing your opinion to be the main star in your essay.

Summarizing: BAD!!!!

In “A Sound of Thunder,” Ray Bradbury uses suspense to create an exciting and thrilling story. At the beginning of the story, an official at the Time Safari office warns Eckels, the main character, that six safari leaders and ten hunters have died on time safaris in the past year. This makes Eckels mad but it doesn’t stop him from going. He travels to the past with Mr. Travis and the other safari members. Once the hunting party has traveled to the past, the safari leader Mr. Travis takes a moment to explain that changing something in the past, even if the change seems miniscule, can have far reaching effects in the future; effects that could be positive or negative. Eckels seems skeptical, but he doesn’t have long to worry about it. Their T. Rex appears, scaring Eckels so that he no longer wants to shoot the dinosaur. Eckels steps off the path when the Tyrannosaurus Rex proves too frightening for him to face, sending him on a brief forage in the jungle. When Travis finds out what he did, he makes Eckels do what scares him most: get the bullets from the time machine. When the hunting party gets back to the future, they find that things are changed and that Eckels stepped on a butterfly in the past, killing it. Ray Bradbury has written a story filled with suspense and anticipation.

Evidence: GOOD!!!!

In “A Sound of Thunder,” Ray Bradbury uses suspense to create an exciting and thrilling story. At the beginning of the story, an official at the Time Safari office warns Eckels, the main character, that six safari leaders and ten hunters have died on time safaris in the past year. By impressing on Eckels the hazards of the expedition, the official also impresses the hazards on the reader. This promise of a highly dangerous adventure brings anticipation to the story as many things could go wrong. Once the hunting party has traveled to the past, the safari leader Mr. Travis takes a moment to explain that changing something in the past, even if the change seems miniscule, can have far reaching effects in the future; effects that could be positive or negative. With such an explanation, the margin for error has been increased exponentially, also increasing the suspense of the story. With just the slightest misstep, any of the hunters could be the one who initiates a change in the future; making every move they make a major risk. Despite these warnings, Eckels steps off the path when the Tyrannosaurus Rex proves too frightening for him to face, sending him on a brief forage in the jungle. Eckels has now committed the one crime that is unforgivable. Something has to have gone wrong when Eckels walked in the jungle. Wondering exactly what the consequences of his journey are increases the already heightened suspense. By combining this uncertainty with the extreme risk of the expedition, Ray Bradbury has written a story filled with suspense and anticipation.